

ACQUISITION

Acquisition and Development Costs - Trails

Acquisition Costs

The following estimated acquisition costs are based on the purchase of a 100-ft.-wide trail corridor in or near Columbia. The assumed width of 100 ft. is used to establish a minimum standard for trail corridor development and may vary for each site. There are many factors that influence land cost, and the purchase price for trail land can vary greatly. Some of the properties being targeted for trail development are located in flood plains, which have limited development potential. This is some of the least expensive land in the city. The upper range of cost for trail land would encompass land that is better suited for development, thus more valuable on the open market.

The estimated acquisition cost for a one mile by 100-ft.-wide trail corridor would range from \$72,000 to \$168,000. This would represent a per acre cost estimate range from \$6,000 to \$14,000 per acre.

Development Costs

The actual trail development costs per mile will also vary with each piece of land. The primary factors affecting construction costs are: design fees, bridges costs, trail surface construction, and trailhead construction. Historically, bridge construction caused the most dramatic variation in cost per mile for trail construction, due in part to the average number of bridges per mile. Boone County has many local streams, which provide beauty and interest to the natural landscape. Unfortunately, the need for bridges over these streams increases the cost per mile for trail construction.

The recent Bear Creek and Hinkson Creek Recreation Trail projects averaged just over one bridge per mile and represent a fairly accurate estimate of bridges per mile for many of the proposed trails. Based on the number of bridges on these two trails, the estimated range for bridge costs per mile of trail is \$150,000 to \$250,000. These prices include contract installation, survey, architectural, and engineering fees.

The remaining cost factors are more constant, since there is less variation in design and construction of the actual gravel trail and trailhead access. The recent trail construction projects along Hinkson Creek and Bear Creek indicate a range from \$105,000 to \$175,000 cost per mile for recreational trail construction of this type, depending on whether or not an access is included.



Hinkson Creek Trail Bridge



Cosmo Fitness Trail